

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN ETHNOLOGY.

The American Indian: An Introduction to the Anthropology of the New World. By Clark Wissler. Pp. xiii+435. (New York: Douglas C. McMurtrie, 1917.) Price 3 dollars.

IN this synthesis of American ethnology Mr. Clark Wissler has given us a book which we have long needed. An immense amount of work has been done in American ethnology, but the results are scattered in ponderous tomes and in innumerable papers in various journals published in diverse countries, and hitherto no scholar had attempted the systematisation of all these data, which manifestly required much patient labour. In terse, direct language the author has brought together the essential facts, and thereby enabled students to gain a clear idea of the technique and distribution of industries, the main features of sociological and religious systems, and the demarcation of the larger groupings. References are given for most of the statements, numerous plates and figures illustrate the text, and there are a number of most useful maps showing various distributions. The scope of the book can be best gauged by giving an epitome of the contents: Food areas (gathering, hunting, agriculture, etc.), textile and ceramic arts, decorative art, architecture, social groupings and regulation, and ritualistic observances. A consideration of these forms the basis for a classification of social groups according to their cultures. North and South America are divided into fifteen culture areas conformable to principles previously enunciated by the author, central spots being selected and the marginal variations noted. Then follow archaeological, linguistic, and somatic classifications, and finally a correlation of classifications and a discussion of culture origins and of New World origins.

A few remarks may be made concerning Mr. Wissler's position with regard to the broader problems of American ethnology. In common with the great majority of his American colleagues, he believes in the unity of the New World culture. "Notwithstanding the great diversity we have found, there are, on every hand, the unmistakable signs of unity. The higher cultures of Mexico and Peru are, after all, merely the great centres where the fundamental elements in New World culture were full blown." He is also impressed by the "many indications of somatic homogeneity strongly suggesting unity of origin." Surely no morphologist would regard the Lagao Santa type (to which no reference is made) as belonging to the same race as the Bororo, or many other tribes. Following the line adopted by Boas, he suggests that "the longer-headed Algonkins and Patagonians are merely the result of greater marginal isolation rather than survivors of a previous long-headed population."

Research becomes paralysed if all irregularities are to be dismissed as fluctuations from a common mean. Probably no one will disagree with

the statement that "no necessary relation exists between the known types of culture, linguistics, and somatology." The analysis of each of these must proceed on independent lines, and it must always be remembered that cultures and languages can be adopted or discarded. The diversity of linguistic stocks in America is an unexplained puzzle for those who maintain the essential unity of the American Indians. Certainly as regards somatology there is very good reason to believe in several distinct migrations of different racial elements from north-east Asia. What cultures they severally brought with them is another matter.

In referring to certain cultural traits mentioned by Rowland B. Dixon as common to America and the Pacific, Mr. Wissler says: "There is no great *a priori* improbability that some of these traits did reach the New World from the Pacific Islands. Satisfactory proof of such may yet be attained, but such discoveries would not account for New World culture as a whole. Then there are abundant data to show that the Polynesians are recent arrivals in the Pacific; in fact, Maya culture must have been in its dotage long before they were within striking distance of the American coast."

We have not yet heard the last word on the problems of the diffusion of culture which are now exercising the minds of many ethnologists; to these this most excellent book will serve at once as a stimulus and a challenge.

A. C. HADDON.

RADIOGRAPHY.

Radiography and Radio-therapeutics. By Dr. R. Knox. Part i., *Radiography*. Second edition. Pp. xxv+382+xx+plates lxxviii. (London: A. and C. Black, Ltd., 1917.) Price 30s. net.

NOTHING better illustrates the advance in medical radiology and the stimulus given thereto by the war than the appearance of a second edition of this work. Upon its production in 1915 Dr. Knox's book became the standard British book on the subject of X-rays, as regards their application diagnostically or as a therapeutic agent. In view of the large amount of new information available it has been thought advisable to issue the second edition in two parts, and part i., "Radiography," has now been completed.

Generally speaking, the lines laid down in the original work have been followed, new matter supplementing the old in the appropriate sections. When an entirely new subject comes up for consideration, such as the detection of gas in the tissues, a new sub-heading is made in the chapter to which it is germane. This will greatly facilitate for the reader the transition from the original volume to the new issue.

The main additions to the work appear to be in the chapters (which, we notice, are not numbered) devoted to the electro-technique of the subject, the localisation of foreign bodies, stereoscopy, and

diagnostic work upon the thorax and the alimentary system. In each of these sections there are considerable additions to the subject-matter of the first edition—present-day methods of dealing with war injuries receiving a good deal of attention by the author.

The illustrations, many of which are new, are very well reproduced, and reflect great credit upon the producers. We regret the omission of the bibliography; it is presumably intended to insert it in part ii., "Radio-therapeutics," but the size of the work warrants the division of the bibliography into two parts.

We notice that this book has been adopted by the U.S. Army and Navy Medical Departments. Whatever may be said as to the official recognition in this country of the significance of X-ray work, either on the diagnostic or the therapeutic side, and of the status of the medical radiologist, the appearance of this book leaves no doubt in one's mind that the study and practice of radiography are on a sound basis, an excellent foundation, in fact, for the structure of a British School of Radiology.

OUR BOOKSHELF.

The Gate of Remembrance: The Story of the Psychological Experiment which resulted in the Discovery of the Edgar Chapel at Glastonbury. By F. B. Bond. Pp. x+176. (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell, 1918.) Price 6s. net.

THIS little book furnishes an interesting record of a series of psychological investigations directed to elucidate certain hitherto unsolved questions in connection with the Glastonbury excavations. In 1907 Mr. F. B. Bond, in anticipation of his appointment to supervise the work, enlisted the aid of a friend, called "J. A.," both being members of the Psychical Research Society, and associated with the secretary in the inquiry. The object was to discover the site of the Edgar Chapel, which seems to have existed in the time of Queen Elizabeth, but which has now passed out of memory. Both the friends made a preliminary study of the monastic chronicles and other literature of the subject. They held numerous meetings, "J. A." grasping a pencil over a sheet of paper, and Mr. Bond resting his hand on that of his friend. By this method a number of scripts were recorded, some containing rudely drawn plans, purporting to be communications from one "Johannes Monachus," "Whyttinge, nuper Abbas," and others, who gave information by which, we are told, the position of the lost Edgar Chapel was determined.

It is obvious that Mr. Bond and "J. A." have compiled the record in perfect good faith, and they have pointed out errors of fact and style in the communications. They do not regard the communications as "the action of discarnate intelligences from the outside upon the physical or nervous organisation of the sitters." "J. A." is "disposed to concur with Mr. Bond in the view that

the subconscious part of the mind may in its operation traverse the limitations of individual knowledge, either acting telepathically through contact with some larger field of memory, or as itself part of a larger unit of a more pervasive kind as regards time and space, conditions which would imply that the individual may have powers of self-expression far greater than those which are normally available through the brain-mechanism controlled by the will and logical faculties." This may be so, but others may prefer to attribute the manifestations to unconscious cerebration working on the authors' historical studies. Apart from its psychological interest, the excellent series of plans and sketches adds to the archæological value of the book.

The British Journal Photographic Almanac and Photographer's Daily Companion, 1918. Edited by George E. Brown. Fifty-seventh issue. Pp. 660. (London: Henry Greenwood and Co., Ltd.) Price 1s. 6d. net.

THE general character of this annual is so well preserved that it needs an actual comparison with the pre-war issues to discover that it is reduced to about half its normal size. Although the "Epitome of Progress" for last year is somewhat curtailed, this is compensated for in great measure by condensing the abstracts and giving references. There has been so much talk with regard to rendering this country independent of foreign factories, so far as some of the more costly chemical preparations are concerned, that one naturally seeks for evidence of progress in this direction. It is satisfactory to note that the Ilford Company is now able to supply certain pure dyes prepared under the direction of Prof. W. J. Pope, of Cambridge University. It mentions a "considerable number" useful for the making of colour filters of all kinds, stains for microscopy, etc., and it is claimed that they are superior to the pre-war German products. Among the latest introductions are pinacyanol and pinaverdol, now called sensitol red and sensitol green respectively; sensitol violet, which is an entirely new panchromatic sensitiser; and filter yellow A. These, with metol and amidol (made by the firm of Johnson and Sons), and various metol substitutes, the compositions of which are not stated, show that a good deal has already been done. Perhaps the second most notable item is the rise in the price of photographic plates. Before the war the popular one shilling a dozen for quarter-plates was increased by 25 per cent., and now, by successive steps, the shilling has risen to two shillings and ninepence.

Memento Oppermann à l'Usage des Ingénieurs, Architectes, Agents Voyers, Conducteurs de Travaux, Mécaniciens, Industriels, Entrepreneurs. Pp. 268. (Paris et Liège: Ch. Béranger.) Price 6 fr.

THIS is a pocket-book for engineers, surveyors, and architects, and contains the information usually given in similar works published in this